

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Division of Habitat

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RECREATIONAL SUCTION DREDGE PERMIT (Stees Highway Area)

PERMIT NO. FH 11 - III - _____ SD

(Permit expires 12/31/2011 - see authorized dates)

1. Name of Operator(s) _____

2. Mailing Address _____ 3. Tel. No. _____

4. E-Mail Address (Optional) _____ 5. FAX No. _____

6. Dredge Intake Nozzle Diameter (in.) _____ 7. Engine (hp) _____

10. Authorized Stream Locations: See attached list.

PERMIT STIPULATIONS. Stipulations #1, #2, and #3 apply to 841 streams (resident fish); all stipulations apply for 871 streams (salmon).

1. Intake nozzle diameter shall be six or less inches in diameter and shall be powered by 18 hp or less engine.
2. No damming or diversions are authorized.
3. Overland (off-road) vehicle access to the mining area that involves ford crossings of anadromous fish streams is NOT authorized under this Recreational Suction Dredge Permit. A Fish Habitat Permit is required for these ford crossings. Please attach a USGS quad map showing the access route to the mining area, including all stream crossings.
4. Streambanks shall not be mined or otherwise disturbed. Dredging is permitted within only the existing wetted perimeter (waterline) in the active stream channel. This stipulation does not apply to suction dredges operating within mine cuts located above the ordinary high water line or disconnected ponds and meander cutoffs.
5. Suction dredges shall not be used as hydraulic monitors to wash soils or other materials from above the water surface.
6. Winches shall not be used to move instream boulders, logs, and other natural obstructions which provide fish habitat and which are too large to move by hand.
7. No wheeled or tracked equipment shall be used instream.

This permit constitutes approval pursuant to AS 16.05.841 and AS 16.05.871(d) and authorizes the above named person(s) to operate the described suction dredge(s) within the described stream locations and within the dates permitted. Anyone operating the described dredge(s) at locations or dates other than those listed in Part 10 or in noncompliance with the permit stipulations is subject to the penalty provisions of AS 16.05.841 and AS 16.05.871. Please be advised that this approval does not relieve you of the responsibility of securing other permits, state, federal, or local nor does it authorize trespass on mineral claims or private lands.

Issued by (ADF&G) _____ Date: _____

I certify that I am a recreational miner, that I have read and understand the conditions of this permit, and that I agree to be bound by these conditions pursuant to Alaska Statutes AS 16.05.841 (Fishway Act) and AS 16.05.871 (Anadromous Fish Act), as applicable.

Signed (Applicant) _____ Date: _____

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME – DIVISION OF HABITAT
Recreational Suction Dredge Permits

General: A recreational suction dredge permit is required to dredge in a waterbody designated as important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish or that is used by resident fish as a migratory corridor. This permit may be obtained from the ADF&G, Division of Habitat located closest to your proposed dredging location. You may determine whether a waterbody is designated as important for anadromous fish by calling or visiting any ADF&G office and looking at the map catalog and atlas that legally identify designated anadromous fish streams.

Definition of Recreational Suction Dredging: ADF&G considers a suction dredge operation recreational if the dredge has an intake diameter of six (6) inches or less, powered by an 18 horsepower or less engine.

NOTE: On state land, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water also classifies suction dredges with an intake 6 inches or less and an engine of 18 hp or less recreational. Dredge operators with an intake larger than 6 inches (18 hp) should contact the Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water (451-2790) to obtain commercial mining application instructions.

Federal land managers consider dredges with an intake 4 inches or smaller recreational. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) have issued general permits for suction dredges with intakes of 6 inches or less generally require prior notice or approval from the federal land manager and COE. Applicants should contact the Bureau of Land Management (907-474-2200), COE (907-474-2166), and EPA (907-271-5083) to obtain application instructions.

Application Fee: There is **no charge** for an ADF&G Recreational Suction Dredge Permit.

Land Status: ADF&G's Fish Habitat permitting requirements apply to all lands in Alaska, including state, federal and private. Issuance of an ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit does not eliminate the need to obtain other state, federal or local permits or approvals from private property or mine claim owners. The Alaska Division of Mining and the Bureau of Land Management can provide information on land status, the presence of valid mining claims, and whether an area is open for recreational suction dredge mining. You must have the permission of the legal owner to suction dredge on a valid mining claim.

Environmental Considerations: Even with simple tools or a small suction dredge, cumulative impacts can occur over time unless you follow permit conditions. Special care shall be taken to minimize scarring the terrain or destroying natural resources. The greatest single effect a suction dredge has on the environment is the danger it poses to fish. The dredge pump forces water and gravel through the nozzle and hose at 9 to 10 feet per second. Fish eggs taken up with the gravel cannot survive the shock, pressure, battering, and pounding that comes with moving through the hose and sluice. If the fish egg should somehow survive the hose and sluice, the chances for being reburied in the gravel at the right depth, gravel composition and location are virtually nonexistent. To prevent these impacts, your Recreational Suction Dredge Permit may include timing restrictions to protect developing eggs. Suction dredging is not allowed in salmon spawning areas after the adult salmon have returned to spawn.

Salmon bury their eggs in gravel nests called "redds." Other fish like Arctic grayling, northern pike, and whitefish spawn in the stream and the eggs settle to the streambed where they remain on the gravel surface throughout the incubation period. The material that runs through a suction dredge flows downstream and settles among the gravel and rocks in the streambed. Too much silt and sand make it difficult for the salmon to dig suitable redds. The silt and sand can also smother fish eggs already deposited or restrict inter-gravel water flow around the eggs. Fish and aquatic insects which fish eat have difficulty living in heavily silted streams. To prevent these impacts, your Recreational Suction Dredge Permit includes several stipulations prohibiting the washing of material from above the waterline or dredging of streambanks. Dredging may occur only within the active stream channel or on unvegetated gravel bars.

If you plan to take an ATV (all terrain vehicles) into a roadless area, you may need a permit from the land manager and a Fish Habitat Permit from the ADF&G if you will ford a waterbody designated as important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish.

As with all outdoor activities, refuse and garbage should be packed out and placed in an approved solid waste disposal site, litter barrel, or thoroughly burned and buried. Please help to keep Alaska beautiful for the next recreational suction dredger, fishermen or outdoor enthusiast to follow.

10. Authorized Stream Locations

Stream Name	Location	Dates Permitted	841/871	Anadromous Catalog Stream No.
Chatanika River	Downstream of MP 58	5/15 to 7/10	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020
Chatanika River	MP 58 to MP 69 Steese Highway	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5311
Chatanika River	Upstream of MP 69	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
McManus Creek	Sect. 5, T6N, R7E, FM and downstream	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020
McManus Creek	Upstream of Sect. 5	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Bachelor Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
MP 72 Gravel Pit	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Sourdough Creek	Sections 22-23, 26-27, & 34-35 T6N, R6E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5293
Sourdough Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Faith Creek	Sect. 15, T6N, R7E, FM and downstream	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5309
Faith Creek	Upstream of Sect. 15	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Hope Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Charity Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Grouse Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Camp Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Poker Creek	Sections 25 & 36, T4N, R1E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5165
Poker Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)

10. Authorized Stream Locations (continued)

Stream Name	Location	Dates Permitted	841/871	Anadromous Catalog Stream No.
Pilot Creek	Section 30, T4N, R2E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5170
Pilot Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Captain Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Kokomo Creek	Section 14, T4N, R2E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5180
Kokomo Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Crooked Creek	Section 6, T4N, R3E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5185
Crooked Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A Resident
Belle Creek	Section 5, T4N, R3E, FM Section 31, T5N, R3E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5191
Belle Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
McKay Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Boston Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Long Creek	Sections 26 & 35, T5N, R3E, FM	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2490-3151-4020-5201
Long Creek	Remainder (not listed above)	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Twelvemile Creek	Downstream of North Fork	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2860-3030-4080-5611
Twelvemile Creek	Upstream of North Fork	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)

10. Authorized Stream Locations (continued)

Stream Name	Location	Dates Permitted	841/871	Anadromous Catalog Stream No.
Birch Creek	Downstream of Twelvemile Creek	5/15 to 10/15	871	334-40-11000-2860-3030-4080
Birch Creek	Upstream of Twelvemile Creek	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Mammoth Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Boulder Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Mastadon Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
North Fork Harrison Creek	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)
Deadwood	All	5/15 to 10/15	841	N/A (Resident)